



特定非営利活動法人

日本免疫学会

Japanese Society for Immunology

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Dear Friends and Colleagues:

On behalf of Japanese Society for Immunology (JSI), we strongly hope that you, your family and your colleagues are staying safe and being well. Currently, all of us are facing and experiencing the world's foremost SARS-CoV-2 pandemic across the continents. In fact, the number of SARS-CoV-2 infected patients as well as its mortality is dramatically increasing day by day. Schools, even universities and workplaces, have shuttered nationwide, and we are now under social distancing and self-isolation. Some countries extended the lockdown to the entire country. As you may know, Tokyo Olympics 2020 was officially and unfortunately postponed for about a year.

Under these difficult circumstances, we are particularly concerned that our fellow researchers must be suffering a severe blow as they were suddenly forced to interrupt their daily important experiments. In particular, researchers, who were using and taking care of valuable experimental animals and cell lines, were hard hit by these undesired situations. Actually, we heard that some US researchers had no choice but to put mice to sleep because they could not maintain their unique and priceless experimental animals.

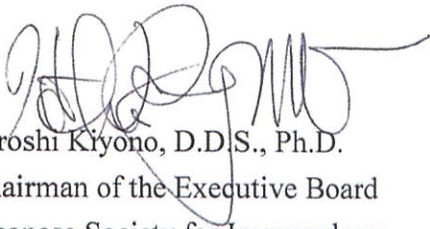
In Japan, we also went through the coronavirus crisis earlier including the cruise ship incidence. Although numbers of new cases are a ballpark figure of fifty in Japan in recent days, we are very much concerned that numbers of new and unlocatable infection cases are rapidly increasing especially in Tokyo. We thus should still be careful and maintain our common sense of crisis mentality.

Despite under the unfortunate circumstances, fortunately, our universities in Japan have not been closed so far, we thus have been and will be able to continue our daily research activities. We JSI therefore would be very happy to be of any help to alleviate our fellow researchers who are suffering from severe COVID-19 situations in your country. Since shipping and overnight carrier companies seem to still be available, some of Japanese universities are now considering to providing some rescue/surrogate service(s), for example, keeping/maintaining your precious mouse or cell lines. Further, some laboratories are offering their expertise and techniques for conducting necessary *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments which you might not able to conduct in your laboratories because of shutdown of your research building.

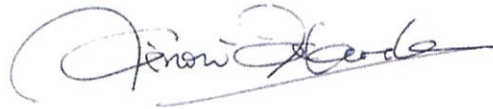
If you have any ideas, wishes and desires about what you would like us to do to support you and your colleagues at this moment, please do not hesitate to let us know and we would be more than happy to provide our help and support.

We are all together to fight back against the SARS-CoV-2 that caused this unfortunate situation. Let's show our solidarity and cooperate with each other in the scientific community of immunology and do our best to overcome the current difficulties. We can do it because we are the team Immunology !!

Stay safe and keep in touch!!



Hiroshi Kiyono, D.D.S., Ph.D.  
Chairman of the Executive Board  
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